



TOWN OF ERIE NEWS FLASH

News & Announcements

For more information contact:
Katie Jenkins | Communications & Marketing Coordinator
303-926-2763 or kjenkins@erieco.gov
www.erieco.gov

Posted: 1-26-2016



Letter from the Mayor: K-8 School at Flatiron Meadows

I know parents in particular are concerned about the timing of construction and the proximity of the site to oil and gas activities. That is why I thought it best to share this information with everyone.

Some of you have contacted me about the letter from Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) Superintendent Bruce Messinger yesterday in which he describes the District's efforts in resolving a specific concern related to oil and gas operations adjacent to the new K-8 school site at Flatiron Meadows that "might affect the construction". I know parents in particular are concerned about the timing of construction and the proximity of the site to oil and gas activities. That is why I thought it best to share this information with everyone.

Let me start by saying that the Town strongly values BVSD as a community partner. We supported the bond that is the funding mechanism for the school's construction. And personally, I remain a strong advocate for school expansion in Erie – including this site at Flatiron Meadows.

This is a complicated issue. In short, BVSD and the developer are seeking some form of relief from the oil and gas operator (Anadarko) and/or assurances from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) as they relate to the operator's surface use rights on a well site adjacent to the new school site. This is the issue that might affect the timing of construction.

While it is true the Town is not a party to the surface use agreement at the heart of this issue, I want you to know that we remain committed to helping BVSD find a solution. As one example, in August of last year, Town staff met with BVSD and the developer to review options on a thoughtful path forward. I can assure you that we are doing our part to assist the District.



TOWN OF ERIE NEWS FLASH

News & Announcements

For more information contact:
Katie Jenkins | Communications & Marketing Coordinator
303-926-2763 or kjenkins@erieco.gov
www.erieco.gov

Many of the comments I've received or have seen on social media were from residents surprised to learn that there was in fact an oil & gas site adjacent to the future school site. I understand and share your concerns – especially as they relate to safeguarding setbacks from schools and oil & gas activity.

The Flatiron Meadows Master Development Agreement was approved by the Town exactly seven years ago today on January 26, 2009. And this agreement not only called for a school site to be dedicated but also specifically referenced the presence of existing and future oil & gas wells and facilities.

Seven years later, COGCC setback requirements have changed. That is why today we try to get drilling completed in residential neighborhoods prior to new homes being built. That is why we have successfully worked with developers and school districts to address concerns such as proximity to well sites.

The Flatiron Meadows school site was envisioned and planned for seven years ago. Similar to other developments, there are challenges to be overcome. And the good news is that we have the concerned parties - all who have expressed an interest in getting the school built – working towards a solution. That's where the focus needs to remain. Those that drive down the road looking in their rear view mirror don't make it very far. I would encourage each of us in our own capacities to continue to work towards a satisfactory solution.

I hope this letter addresses some of your questions and concerns.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely, Mayor Tina Harris

View the online Mayor's Page [here](#).